

IN THE CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. – 47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently amended) A method for emulating a mouse in providing input to a computer programsystem which uses a visual display for providing user information and an indicator in the visual display for permitting user control, comprising:

- (a) choosing a feature associated withconsisting of at least a portion of a head or face of a system computer user;
- (b) determining a location of the feature in a video image from a video camera at an initial-a first time, the video image being formed by reflection of ambient light from objects in the video camera field of view including reflection from the feature;
- (c) determining a subsequent location of the feature in a video image from the video camera at a subsequent given time, by correlating greyscale intensities of pixels in trial subimages of the video image at the subsequent given time, with greyscale intensities of pixels in a subimage including the chosen feature in the video image at the first time, and selecting the trial subimage of the video image at the subsequent given time which has the highest correlation to the subimage including the chosen feature in the video image at the first time;
- (d) emulating a use of a movement of the mouse to move the indicator in the visual display, by determining the indicator location at the subsequent given time based upon a location of the indicator at a previousthe first time, and a change between a location of the feature in the video image at the previousfirst time and the location of the feature in the video image at the subsequent given time; and
- (e) emulating the-a use of a click from the mouse to provide an input signal to the computer programsystem, by providing an input signal in response to the

25

location of the feature in the video image ~~remaining within being confined to a region defined by a radius a defined range during for a defined period of time.~~

49. (Canceled)

50. (Canceled).

51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently amended) The method of claim 48, wherein:

- (a) the input signal provided is selected from a group consisting of letters, numbers, spaces, punctuation marks, other defined characters and signals associated with defined actions to be taken by the computer program system; and
- (b) the selection of the input signal is determined by the location of the feature in the video image.

5

53. (Canceled)

54. (Canceled)

55. (Canceled)

56. (Canceled)

57. (Canceled)